

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 6, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

We write to you in support of Ms. Carolyn Lerner's nomination to serve a second term as Special Counsel of the Office of Special Counsel (OSC). OSC plays a vital role in our government by protecting federal employees from prohibited personnel practices, which often comes in the form of illegal retaliation against whistleblowers.

As Co-Chairs of the House Whistleblower Protection Caucus, we believe strongly that whistleblowers are crucial to the exposure of waste, fraud, and abuse in the Federal Government, and that their courage in coming forward is invaluable to Congress as it performs oversight of federal agencies. All federal employees should feel safe to report violations without fear of retaliation – which is exactly why the mission of OSC is so important.

Under Ms. Lerner's leadership, OSC has increased both the number of claims it investigates and the number of cases resolved. OSC has won bipartisan praise for its work, including resolving multiple cases of retaliation against whistleblowers at the Veterans Administration, resulting in meaningful reforms meant to improve the care of our nation's veterans. We believe Ms. Lerner has earned a second term, and expect OSC to continue to excel under her guidance.

Though the Senate calendar is understandably busy as you consider many of President Trump's nominees, we respectfully request that you consider Ms. Lerner's nomination as soon as possible to guarantee continued protection for whistleblowers.

Respectfully,



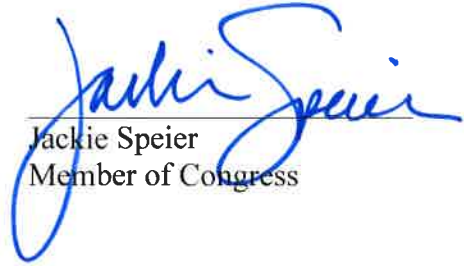
Rod Blum
Member of Congress



Mike Coffman
Member of Congress



Kathleen Rice
Member of Congress



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Ron Johnson, Chairman, Senate Committee on Homeland Security
and Government Affairs
Mr. Donald F. McGahn, Counsel, The White House